

*Shoreview Post*

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) will visit St. Paul Academy and Summit School (SPA) on Thursday, February 3, for a town-hall style meeting with students to discuss federal energy and environmental policy.

Congresswoman McCollum's visit to the school is a direct outcome of SPA's ninth-grade earth science course and a unit on climate change. As part of that unit, each student researched and authored a "Position Statement on Climate Change," and copies of those statements were then sent to both Minnesota senators and to all members of Congress in the U.S. House of Representatives for the congressional districts in which the students live. As a result, Congresswoman McCollum's office contacted SPA to inquire about visiting the school to talk with the students about their research and national climate and energy policy. Congresswoman McCollum serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, which has jurisdiction over the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and the Council on Environmental Quality.

SPA science teacher Karissa Baker teaches several sections of the earth science class in which students wrote the papers and helped coordinate McCollum's visit. "Congresswoman McCollum seemed very impressed with the students' work and research in their position papers," Baker says, "and we are thrilled to have her come to campus and engage with our students and our community around these important issues."